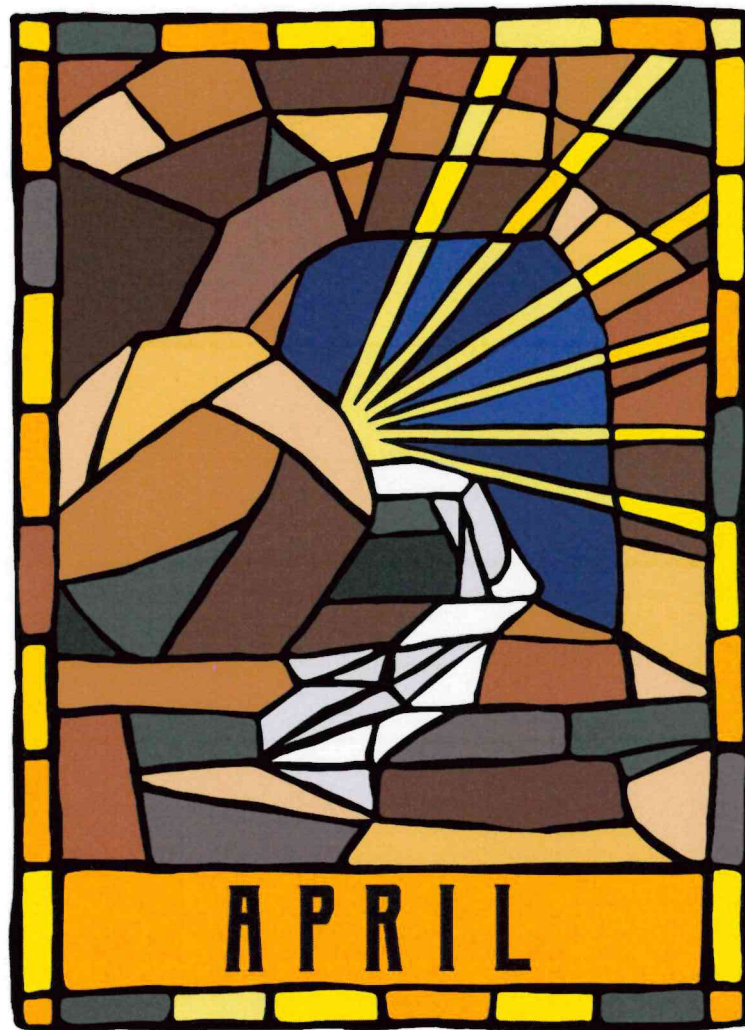


# The AMERICANews

of the American Reformed Church  
of Hull Iowa



2026

# AMERICANews

the American Reformed Church  
Hull, Iowa

Vol.35 No. 11  
April 2026



Lent calls us to humility and repentance. It invites a renewed closeness with God. We are reminded that our relationship with Him is rooted in our need for His steadfast love. That is what many of us have been working on since Ash Wednesday by sacrificing certain comfort foods, Bible reading plans, and even Devotional videos.

Each year, I reflect on how the Bible portrays all of this and what it says about our relationship with God. What I have discovered is how much Scripture talks about our access to God. In fact, the Bible is full of real people facing real challenges and learning to rely on God's grace to draw near to Him.

David exemplifies this. Despite his failures, he understood how to enter God's presence. He wrote many of these experiences in the Psalms, with both the highs and lows of His relationship with the Lord.

In fact, Psalm 5 illustrates this when David says:

***"But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you."* — Psalm 5:7 (ESV)**

This verse emphasizes how our closeness to God depends entirely on His mercy and love, not our own actions. There is nothing we can do to remove His mercy and love, and there is no way to earn them either.

David gives us a picture of how it is 'through God's steadfast love' and 'God's faithful kindness' that we are able to approach Him. This means none of our own merit or success forms the true foundation of worship.

David understood this, which is why he would also say: 'I will bow down... in fear of you.' He knew where to turn in times of sin. His response was one of reverence, awe, and surrender.

Let this truth shape us daily: because of Jesus, there is nothing in our past or present that separates us from God. Our hope is anchored in His work and His work alone. This is why we can know with certainty how to draw near to God: our access to God is never earned; it is given because of His steadfast love. This truth should lead us to genuine humility.

The writer of Hebrews builds on this. He says we can confidently enter the holy places "by the blood of Jesus." Like David, we depend on God's mercy and draw near to Him through Christ.

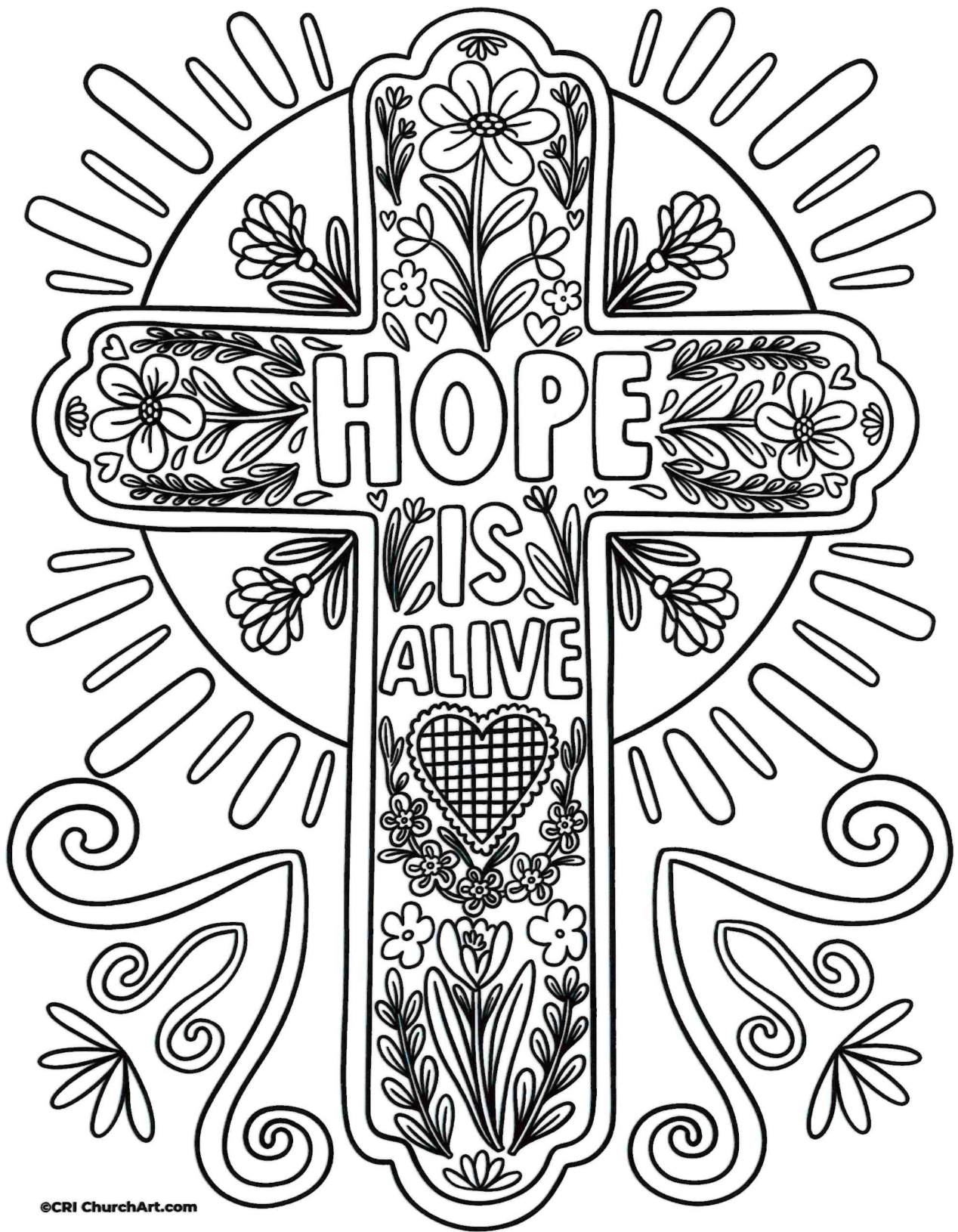
This is what we celebrate at Easter. There is no more important day in human history because everything changed on the day Christ took on the cross. His death became our life.

And because of this, the words of James 4 are a reality for each one of us: *"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."*

This means you can come to God with confidence, not because of your efforts, but because of His mercy. Draw near with a surrendered heart, allowing this truth to reshape how you approach God this Easter.

Today may be the day to begin this relationship with God. Ask Him to reveal Himself, regardless of your circumstances, and experience the relationship He desires. That is my hope and prayer for each one of us.

*-Pastor Mark*



**PROJECTION**

- April 2 Heather Mesman (Thursday)
- April 5 Loree Walton
- April 12 Jacob Gaul
- April 19 Mel Reuvers
- April 26 Loree Walton



**VIDEO**

- April 2 Reid Van Voorst (Thursday)
- April 5 Laura Woelber
- April 12 Brian Sipma
- April 19 Aisayah Moss
- April 26 Carter Wallenburg

**USHERS**

- April 5 Brian Sipma, Chris Kelderman
- April 12 Craig Moss, Dean Hoogeveen
- April 19 Craig Moss, Dean Hoogeveen
- April 26 Denny Kelderman, Dwayne Hansmann

**NURSERY**

- April 5 NURSERY NOT STAFFED
- April 12 Marsha Moss, Vanessa Wissink, Teagan Sipma
- April 19 Heather Walton, Carston T, Adleigh T
- April 26 Chris Kelderman, Kaden Soodsma, MaKenzie Mesman

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During the month of April,  
the Sunday School  
will be collecting the

**Annual Anniversary Offering**

This offering has been collected every April since World War II on the anniversary of the founding of ARC.

The proceeds are always designated to mission projects outside the church.

Your gifts can be put into the worship service offering designated to Anniversary Offering.



The early registration deadline for  
**INSPIRATION HILLS CAMP**

sign up is **April 15<sup>th</sup>** Inspiration Hills offers many wonderful  
**SUMMER CAMP** opportunities.



God meets kids at summer camp in powerful ways!!

We at American Reformed Church want all our children to have this extraordinary spiritual experience.

For that reason, ARC will pay for half of each summer camp registration (and more if it's needed).

Register online at <http://www.inspirationhills.org>.

There is a part of the registration form that will ask for the church name and amount the church is covering. Make sure to fill that out.

Any questions, please contact Todd Visscher



## March Consistory

*by Josh Wissink*

- ◆ Next Consistory Meeting will be Monday, April 20 at 7pm
- ◆ The next Sacrament of The Lord's Supper will be Maundy Thursday Service April 2
- ◆ March 29, Palm Sunday the kids(Preschool to 6th grade) will leave the sanctuary after the Children's Message to watch a video in the basement titled "King of Kings"
- ◆ April 12 - Christ in Culture Series - Pastor Mark will have a sermon which touches on difficult topics that could be inappropriate for younger children to understand. Kids will be asked to leave the sanctuary after the Children's Message to do other activities in the basement during the Sermon.
- ◆ Missions & Evangelism met with Caleb and Elise on March 8. They had a great presentation about their vision and plans for the future. More details to come in the future.

# GRACE COVENANT MINISTRIES MISSION TRIP

Work dates are **July 27-July 31.**

Save the date if you are able to join us this year! No special skills are needed, just a willing heart to serve others.

There are jobs for everyone.

If you have any questions, contact Ken or Ida Evertse.



**This trip is a mission of the entire congregation.** We will again bring donations from the congregation to the Trade Store. The items you have donated in the past have been a great blessing to the people served by GCM.

This year we have made arrangements with JFA to transport some larger items that we have not been able to transport before.

**Possible items:** Chairs, bar stools, bed frames, end tables, dressers that are in good condition, etc.

Please contact Ken Evertse (441-0265) to make arrangements for the large items.

**Don't forget to check your closets and cupboards for items you are no longer in need.**

(Clothing for all ages, books, toys, smaller house hold items, dishes, kitchen utensils, home decor.) Start gathering them at home now and after Memorial Day you will be able to bring them to Church.



Transportation costs and room & board will be paid for with money raised at the Church Mission Auction for any member of ARC. Again, thank you for your great support at the Mission Auction. Profits this year were given to help support 4 different missions.

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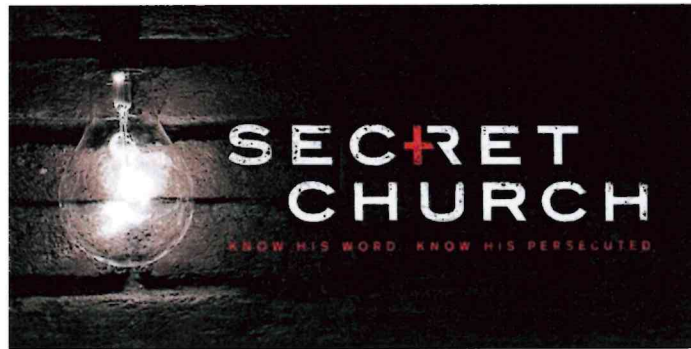
## NEEDING SOME YARD WORK DONE?

The high school youth group is here to help!

They will be doing a yard clean up day on Saturday, April 11.

If you would like them to stop by your house, please contact Alex Van Der Wilt: 712-578-8700 or Sara Vink: 712-470-0457.

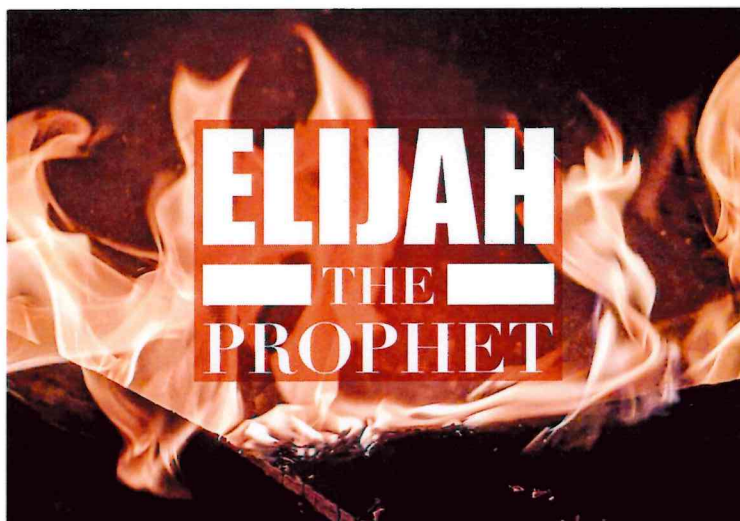


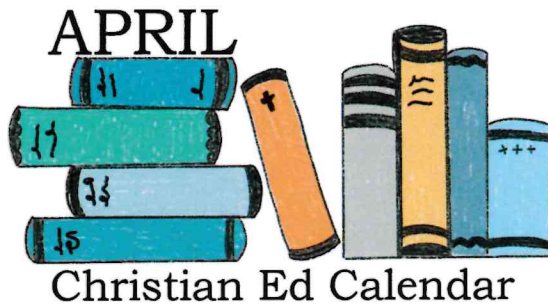


**Secret Church** is back with a dramatic and immersive dive into the **life of Elijah-the prophet** who stood alone before kings, called down fire from heaven, battled despair in silence, and was taken up in chariots of flame. This narrative-driven teaching will carry viewers through the highs and lows of Elijah's life, calling today's church to courageous, resilient faith in hard places. As with past Secret Church events, this experience is not just about studying Scripture-it's about equipping and mobilizing the global church to live boldly for Christ in the hardest-to-reach places. This year, the story of Elijah will be woven together with real stories of gospel advance in Nepal, bringing ancient Scripture and modern mission into powerful alignment.

Join us **Friday, April 17, 2026 from 6:00 p.m-12:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary for ARC's fourth Secret Church event. This annual 6 hour online gathering joins with believers from all over the world to study the Word of God and support our persecuted brothers and sisters. **It's an opportunity you don't want to miss.**

**Sign up at the connection center if you hope to come or contact Julie Visscher (712.470.6814) if you have any questions.**





Sunday School Anniversary Offering.....	all of April
No Midweek Programs/Easter Break.....	April 1
No Sunday School/Easter.....	April 5
Quarter Sunday.....	April 12
Inspiration Hills Discount Deadline .....	April 15
Junior High Retreat/Hidden Acres.....	April 17-19
Last Midweek Programs.....	April 29

On **Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a **“Christ & Culture Sunday”**

Pastor Mark will continue his sermon series on how our faith intersects with cultural issues. (i.e., LGBTQ+, marriage, civic engagement, global warming, and others)

**During the sermon, kids (PreK-6th grade) will be invited to the basement for age-appropriate teaching and some fun activities.**



## PRAYER PARTNERS

We ask that you pray for our Jr High students and sponsors attending the Middle School Retreat at Hidden Acres in Dayton, IA on April 17-19.

Please consider signing up to be a prayer partner for one or more of them. There is a sign up sheet on the Connection Center.



**PASTOR**

Pastor Mark Cercone .....439-2057  
 Email – mark@hullarc.com

**CONSISTORY**

Eric Schafer ('28).....348-6089  
 Dennis Smit('28).....470-2167  
 Jeff Verhoef('28).....470-1691  
 Josh Wissink('28) Clerk..... 540-5071  
 Galen Breuer('27)..... 460-3331  
 Tim Brunsting('27). .... 441-5442  
 Todd Visscher('27). .... 441-5663  
 Todd Woelber('27)..... 441-6628  
 Mike Mesman ('26)..... 470-5455  
 Craig Moss ('26) Chair of Deacons..... 441-0948  
 Colin Sandbulte ('26)..... 441-7457  
 Kevin Roozing ('26) Vice-President..... 441-4849

**CONSISTORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Property ..... Colin S, Jeff V  
 Pulpit Supply ..... Kevin R  
 Sacraments..... Dennis S, Todd W  
 Christian Education..... Craig M, Todd V  
 Worship & Music ..... Mike M, Eric S  
 Mission & Evangelism ..... Galen B, Tim B

**SECRETARY:** Donna Wallenburg:..... 441-1289

**CUSTODIAN:** Loree Walton: ..... 470-2947

**CHURCH TREASURER:** Denny Kelderman.. 470-3652

**MEAL MINISTRY:** .....Jeanne Breuer, Ruth Moss

**NURSERY SUPERVISOR:** ..... Amy Moss

**COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS**

**WORSHIP & MUSIC:**

Ruth Moss: Chairman: ..... 441-4170  
 Jeanne Breuer, Mike Mesman, Harlan Moss,  
 Audrey Raman, Eric Schafer, Loree Walton, Alex  
 Van Der Wilt, Sara Vink

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

Todd Visscher: Chairman: ..... 441-5663  
 Heather Mesman, Aaron Moss, Amy Moss, Craig  
 Moss, Hayley Moss, Kevin Roozing, Joyce Sipma,  
 Aleisha Wissink

**MISSION & EVANGELISM:**

Galen Breuer: Chairman: ..... 460-3331  
 Tim Brunsting, Ida Evertse, Ken Evertse, Carolyn  
 Goold, Julie Marra, Tony Van Der Zwaag

**SPECIAL BENEVOLENT FUND OFFERING**

January..... Bethesda Midwest  
 February..... Sr. ARCYF  
 March..... The Bible League  
 April..... Sunday School Anniversary Fund  
 May..... Living Stone Prison Church  
 June..... Amistad Cristiana  
 July..... Hope Haven  
 August..... Jr High RCYF  
 September..... Grace Covenant Ministries  
 October..... Inspiration Hills  
 November..... Bruce & Tamar DJ  
 December..... Center of Hope

**FELLOWSHIP SQUAD:**

Pastor Mark  
 Jeanne Breuer, Andrea Kelderman, Sara Vink,  
 Aleisha Wissink, Todd Visscher